

From: Glenn Anderson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 9:53am
Subject: Microsoft vs. Justice Opinion

Dear Justice Department Representative:

I just found this Email address on my latest edition of Wired News and thought it was an opportunity too good to ignore. If the opinions of a Microsoft consumer have any weight whatsoever (which is historically untrue) then let my thoughts add to the tired scales of justice.

Having watched your comedic battle against Microsoft for the last few years, I can agree with Mr. Gates that the strain on the taxpayer and the waste of manpower are ridiculous. That is by design, of course. Knowing that there was no other way to win, Microsoft has won the war of attrition vs. the resources of the U.S. Government. Not even the entire country of Afganistan could do that.

I use Microsoft products every day. I work with them. I play with them. However, I remember a day when FoxPro was the best database (they were devoured by Microsoft) and WordPerfect was an efficient and effective word processor (they were kicked out by the Microsoft clone, Word). Those softwares were the best because they were made by companies that had to create quality software in order to compete. There were dozens of productivity software makers out there. If one of them was prone to nasty macro viruses or crashed every hour or so, you could easily switch to another one. Now? To get software from other vendors requires a Mac - but, of course, Microsoft will take care of all of their tools as well.

The remedies proposed by the settlement are weak. In fact, behavioral remedies will be as hard to enforce as this entire farce has been to execute. Microsoft will still continue to push its competitors out of the market - not by offering a better product - but by their established and growing strangle-hold on the software industry.

The only solution would have been to split up the giant and let it compete with itself. Two (or more) extremely powerful software companies - bloated but at

least with a competitor on equal terms - would at least have less time and resources to smother innovation and might even create something of their own for once.

I'm sure you've read quite enough of these now (in fact, I doubt you've even gotten this far) so I will finish. Once upon a time, I believed my government could protect me from tyrants, thieves, and tragedy. It seems that isn't true... and every time I see MSnbc, MS windows, and MS passport I will remember that Microsoft is now my big brother who will tell me what to think, what to do, and to keep all my secrets (and I didn't even elect them).

We all suffer for your failure.

Sincerely,
Glenn Anderson

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